

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

GUIDELINES & TIPS FOR ATHLETES

ELIGIBILITY = “CAN YOU COMPETE?”

Eligibility is determined by the baseline requirements set by your National Sport Organization (NSO). If you do not meet all the applicable eligibility criteria of your NSO, you cannot be on the team, regardless of your results.

The typical eligibility checklist may include:

- Citizenship and passport details;
- Anti-doping compliance (e.g., whereabouts, no period of ineligibility, testing requirements);
- For para sports only: valid status and compliance with all classification rules for the sport category;
- Member in good standing and adherence to codes of conduct or athlete agreements;
- Age/residency rules for certain events.

TEAM SELECTION = “WILL YOU BE CHOSEN?”

Once you are eligible, your NSO will apply its selection criteria to determine which athletes will fill the limited available spots. These criteria can be objective, trial-based, discretionary, or a combination of these.

Selection policies vary by sport, but must include the following:

- Common criteria for awarding spots:
 - Objective: rankings/points, time standards, final standings at named events;
 - Trials-based: results at a specific trials event (sometimes with tie-breakers);
 - Discretionary factors: clearly listed considerations including performance trends, health/fitness, role fit, team balance (when used, good policies define the discretionary factors and how they will be weighed).
- Dates & deliverables: qualifying window, declaration deadlines, selection meeting date, and when/where the team list will be announced.
- Alternates & replacements: who may travel as reserves, when a replacement can be activated, and what happens if an athlete is injured/ill after nomination.

In order to understand the team selection requirements for each event, it is important for each team member to review the team selection policy of their NSO at the start of each season and prior to each competition.

WHO SETS THE RULES?

IF

International Federations (IFs) are responsible for establishing global qualification and eligibility criteria for their respective sports. These criteria may include ranking pathways, entry standards and nationality regulations, among others.

NSO

National Sport Organizations (NSOs) are responsible for publishing the selection policy for each event or season, to ensure fair and consistent application.

MAJOR GAMES CRITERIA

NOC NPC

National Olympic Committees (NOCs) / National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) are responsible for the final team selections of the athletes recommended by their respective NSO. The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) and the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) are responsible for approving or setting Major Games-specific team selection policies and confirming the names of those selected to represent Canada on Team Canada, following the nomination process conducted by the NSOs.

For Major Games, the eligibility and selection criteria are assessed cumulatively: you must satisfy the requirement of the IF, the event and/or Games organizer, your NSO and, where applicable, the National Multisport Service Organization (MSO). Failure to satisfy any of these layers can prevent you from participating.

CHECKLIST

- 1** Read the policy from start to finish and list your key dates (qualifying window, declaration and selection meeting). *Ensure you are reading the most current version of the policy.*
- 2** Track your own proof of eligibility: results, rankings, standards achieved and medical clearances, if relevant.
- 3** Keep your eligibility current by ensuring your passport is valid, your membership is renewed and complying with anti-doping requirements and para classification status, if applicable.
- 4** Declare your availability and any required event entries on time.
- 5** Ask for clarification in writing on anything you do not understand before the window closes.
- 6** Plan for potential contingencies, such as illness or injury procedures, and be aware of the possibility of using alternates.